

INTENDED TO WITHDRAW AND BURN LETTER

Mrs. Hayes Says Her
Mother Wrote It To
Justify Her Action.

COULD NOT BEAR HEAT OF THE SOUTH

Mrs. Davis's Income Was Large
and Sister Had Literary Ambitions; New York Was
Therefore Considered
Best Place for
Residence.

NEW ORLEANS, December 11.—The much discussed Mrs. Jefferson Davis letter, which created a sensation at the recent convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, is to-night a subject of an explanation written by Mrs. Margaret Howell Jefferson Davis Hayes, the only surviving daughter of the Confederate President. It is addressed to General Stephen D. Lee, commanding the United Confederate Veterans, and made public by him.

The full text of Mrs. Jefferson Davis's letter was suppressed from publication. It gives Mrs. Davis's reasons for having made her home in the North after the war, and criticizes Mississippi, the State of Jefferson Davis's residence. Mrs. Hayes's letter says:

Written Years Ago.

"As to this letter of my mother, allow me to say it was written some years ago, and was prompted by a desire to justify her actions in the eyes of the Southern people, whom she loved with unfailing loyalty and devotion. This defense of herself, sent to a friend, to read after her death, she wrote, after numerous articles from different newspapers, and letters condemning her actions were received by her when she was in failing health. If she had been consulted by those in whose hands it was placed, the letter should never have been made public, for only last spring, after discussing the fact of its existence, my mother decided to recall it, and I hoped until I heard of its being read, that it had been destroyed."

Excessive Heat.

"Whatever my mother may have intended to write at the time this letter was sent to Julia Kimbrough, she felt safe in the love, respect and consideration of her own people, and among whom she would gladly have lived and died. If, unfortunately, she could not bear the excessive heat of the South and was prone to malaria. Then, after my father's death, she was afraid to live in the country with her father, there being no other member of the family who could stay there."

She added that, as her mother's income was large and the sister mentioned had literary ambitions, Mrs. Davis could live in New York more easily than elsewhere. She says that Mrs. Davis also made a handsome salary from New York newspaper writing.

No Apology to Offer.

"I do not offer an apology for any action of my mother," the letter says, "but I must feel that if anything she wrote gave offense to the people of the South, it was in the spirit of a mother who was not through lack of love. Also, if I would have written anything which wounded my mother at the time, I feel sure he did not intend to do so, for I know he loved me, and my father's devoted and loyal friends. I loved the South, and I am as proud of my father's devotion and loyalty as above all other States. Let no one think other than that my mother loved and honored the South and Southern people above everything. I hope that her enemies will be silenced, if not won, by this explanation."

The letter closes with an appeal for reverence and respect for the memory of "the mother of the Confederacy."

ARKANSAS STATE GUARD COMMEND THE PRESIDENT

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., December 11.—The Arkansas State Guard Association, an organization of all officers of the Arkansas State Guard, passed a resolution to-day commending President Roosevelt for the action taken in dismissing from the service three companies of negro soldiers, members of the Twenty-fifth Infantry. The resolutions also urged that action be taken by Congress for repeal of all laws now in vogue which permit negroes to enlist in the army and navy. The resolution recites that it is "dangerous" to have negroes in the army or navy.

MAUDE ADAMS'S MOTHER WANTS NEWS OF BROWN

WASHINGTON, December 11.—A telegram was received to-night at the hospital from Mrs. Annie C. Adams, mother of Maude Adams, asking to be notified at the Grand Union Hotel, New York City, of the condition of the former Senator's son and daughter, who have been visiting him recently in the hospital ward to-night. Though his vitality was weakening, she is constantly assured the children that he would live.

Mrs. Bradley, who is still in a cell at the House of Detention, when told the former Senator was slowly sinking, expressed herself as deeply shocked.

IMMENSE FORTUNE LEFT TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN

CHICAGO, December 11.—The Evening Post to-day says that the entire fortune of Otto Young, who died recently, was bequeathed to the seven grandchildren of Mr. Young in equal parts, after provision had been made for the widow and four daughters. The gross amount of the estate is estimated at \$2,000,000. The Post says that charitable bequests amounting to between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 will be made.

NEWLY ELECTED HEAD OF R. F. & P. RAILWAY



WILLIAM HENRY WHITE,
of Norfolk.

WHITE ELECTED R. F. & P. PRES'T

Norfolk Lawyer Chosen
Yesterday at Meeting
of Stockholders.

PAGE RESOLUTION DEFINES POLICY

Additional Dividend of 25 Per
Cent. on Stock Declared.
High Tribute Paid to
Judge Leake by
Those Present.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad yesterday, at which a large majority of the stock was represented, the action of the conference on Monday in agreeing upon Mr. William H. White for the presidency of that road was confirmed, but one vote being cast against his selection.

The meeting also adopted a strongly drawn resolution, offered by Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, defining the State's position with reference to this railroad property and outlining the future policy of the company. The stockholders also constituted a committee to draft suitable resolutions upon the voluntary retirement of Judge William J. Leake from the presidency, and later voted him \$3,000 additional as remuneration for his dual service as president and general counsel during the past year.

A resolution, offered by President George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, providing for a declaration of an additional dividend of 25 per cent. on the stock, was adopted. This action will mean the distribution among the stockholders of about \$25,000.

Mr. White, the newly-elected president of the railroad, was not present at the meeting, although a stockholder, but reached the city before the meeting had closed. His acceptance of the position, while not formally announced, is regarded as beyond any question.

Page Resolutions.

When the stockholders' meeting was called to order Mr. John P. Branch was chosen as chairman, and took the chair, whereupon a committee was appointed to ascertain what proportion of the stock was represented in person or by proxy. This committee announced the presence of a large majority of stockholders or proxies, and the meeting proceeded to the business before it.

Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, in the beginning of the business, presented the following resolution, which he declared, was endorsed by the retiring president:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, being a road lying wholly within the limits of Virginia, and operated under a charter granted by Virginia, in which the State and

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MR. MASON DIES WHILE AT WORK ON BOOKS

Falls Over While at His Post
and Soon Expires—A Popular Man.

(Special to Southern Bell Telephone.)

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., December 11.—William Thornton Mason, bookkeeper for the Smith-Coghill Wholesale Shoe Company, died suddenly here to-day at his desk while working on the books of the firm.

Near the office heard a gurgling sound and noticed that Mason's chin was resting on his breast. They ran to his assistance and laid him on the floor, but in a few minutes life was extinct.

Mason was forty-five years of age; well known and very popular. He is survived by his father, Major W. Roy Mason, of Richmond; three brothers, W. Roy Mason, Jr., Julian Mason, of New York, and Dr. Charles Mason, surgeon in the United States Army, and three sisters.

MONTAGNINI IS EXPELLED FROM FRANCE

Courier From Rome
Turned Back at the
Frontier.

"STILL TIME TO AVOID A BATTLE"

Premier Makes This Statement in
Chamber of Deputies, Adding
That Church Must Submit
in Order to Have
Peace—Favor
Hostilities.

France in Midst of War on Church

The church and state separation law will be considered in effect after to-day.

Under the statute, all church salaries heretofore paid by the state will stop. Annual appropriations of \$5,500,000 for religious purposes will be cut off. Churches, chapels, convents, etc., belonging to religious congregations will be confiscated.

Some of these edifices will be held by syndicates of laymen and private individuals.

Where public worship associations are formed during the year, churches and other buildings will be turned over to them at the end of the year the state may assume charge.

Officials must be notified of the intention to hold services, and as the custodians of the churches, they are to rent them.

The Vatican has ordered non-compliance with the law, because it is incompatible with the Pope to place religious services on a plane with public meetings.

PARIS, December 11.—Mr. Montagnini, secretary of the Papal Nunciature here since the recall of the Nuncio, was arrested this afternoon upon an order compelling him from France, and to-night, accompanied by a commissary of police, was conducted to the frontier.

The residence of Mr. Montagnini was searched by the police. Immense quantities of documents were seized and taken to police headquarters.

A courier from the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry del Val, bearing dispatches from Rome, was turned back at the frontier to-day.

Premier Clemenceau, replying to a question in the Chamber of Deputies to-night, as to the reason for the expulsion of Montagnini, said it was because of his complicity with prominent clergymen of Paris, against whom proceedings were pending, inciting church-goers to rebellion. Interference by foreigners on orders from Rome in the politics of France, he declared, was not permissible. The Premier, amid thunders of applause, tersely summed up the situation, declaring that the government's conciliatory proposals towards the church had been exhausted, and that it had been decided in future to leave the cause on Rome.

There Is Still Time.

"If the church wishes," the Premier continues, "there is still time to avoid a battle. We offer her the law of 1881, made for all Frenchmen, and submitting thereto, she will have peace; but otherwise, by seeking us, she will find us."

Formal notice was served during the meeting, although Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, and the bishops and parish priests of this department that they must evacuate their residences to-morrow.

Similar notices were served on the clergy in the other departments notifying them to leave their residences on Thursday or Friday.

After a meeting of the Cabinet ministers to-day it was announced that on December 14th Premier Clemenceau will ask Parliament to suppress the pensions of the clergy to liquidate the public property of Catholics, and to distribute the proceeds, seminaries, etc.

War Minister Piquet has ordered the recruiting officers to require ecclesiastical students to present their certificates to-morrow. Those who fail to do so by December 20th will be ordered to join.

(Continued on Second Page.)

"I AM FORGER," SAYS PROMINENT LAWYER

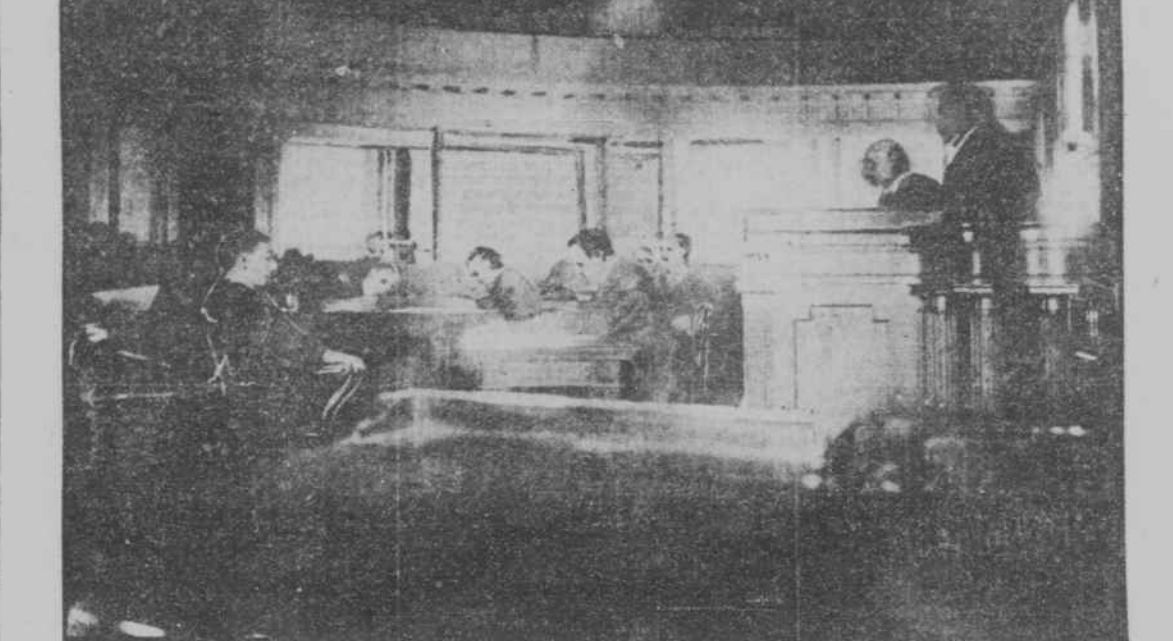
Daniel F. Raum Couldn't Stand
the Pace and Surrendered
Himself.

PEORIA, ILL., December 11.—Daniel F. Raum, a prominent lawyer of this city and a son of General B. Raum, ex-commissioner of pensions, entered the office of State's Attorney Scholes to-day, saying: "I am a forger."

Raum was willing to sign a written confession. He told a story of traveling with a class in society which required money far beyond his own. He detailed how he had committed his first crime to secure money for his living expenses. He could not meet the forgery when he expected, and another resulted. The gross amount of his forgeries aggregate \$10,000.

Three thousand dollars of this is due Frank C. Cunningham, loan broker, and the remaining \$7,000 is scattered among other persons in smaller amounts. It was a week ago that the discovery came, and Mr. Cunningham sent for Mr. Raum. They had a conference in reference to one of the forgeries, which Mr. Raum expressed a hope to pay. Another was discovered and Raum, despairing of ever meeting the obligations, failure to pay which would result in his arrest, surrendered himself. He was sent to jail.

OPERATOR MATTOX ADMITS HE VIOLATED IMPORTANT RULE



SCENE DURING SOUTHERN RAILWAY HEARING, SHOWING OPERATOR MATTOX ON STAND.

FIRE DESTROYS LIVERY STABLE

Horses in McDonough's Place
Escaped, But Building Was
Practically Wrecked.

BLAZE DISCOVERED BY BOY

Believed to Have Been Raging
Some Time Before Alarm
Was Sent In.

The livery stable of James McDonough, No. 12 North Eighteenth Street, was practically destroyed by fire early this morning. Many handsome carriages were burned, but the horses escaped unhurt.

Happening to look out of his bedroom window, the little son of Mr. H. H. Hartzell, of Twenty-first and Main Streets, saw a blaze of light to the westward of him, and immediately turned to his father with the cry, "Look at the fire!" Flames from the livery stable were shooting up to the sky, and the whole building seemed to be afire. Mr. Hartzell ran to the nearest fire alarm box and turned in the alarm.

Lasted Two Hours.

The fire must have been raging for some time before it was discovered, as it had gained much headway before the arrival of the engines. Catching from a spark which flew into one of the rear windows of the building from the barrel factory of Sullivan & Jones, just in the rear of the livery stable, the flames soon covered the entire third floor, which was completely gutted. The fire lasted at least two hours.

Sergeant Reese and Policeman Zimmer soon arrived, being there before the arrival of the fire companies. Sergeant Reese and a number of colored men—D. Davis, Otto Skinner, Paul Brown, Dan and Jack Timmerlake, Herbert Taylor and Ed Ryan—broke into the stable and brought out the horses and a shower of falling sparks. About fifteen horses and a large number of carriages, among which was a new horse, valued at \$2,000, were brought out and saved from destruction. A family, all foreigners, were asleep in one of the rooms on the ground floor, and they never knew of the fire until Policeman Zimmer and a young man named Dutcher, broke open the door and aroused them. They were brought out half clothed, as the fire was rapidly gaining headway.

Masonic Hall in Danger.

The prompt work of the fire department saved the rest of the building, but the third floor was completely gutted, and the damage will probably amount to several thousand dollars, as the floor was a place for repair work, and was also used for storage purposes. A large number of carriages and material was destroyed.

The Masonic Hall, occupied by Lodge No. 19, facing on Franklin Street and running back to the rear of the livery stable, was in imminent danger of catching fire, but the heroic efforts of the firemen, though it was some time before they could get a stream on, saved it from anything but a severe scorching of the rear walls. This hall is one of the oldest of its kind anywhere in the State, and is widely known to all Masons, who cherish it as one of their landmarks. The sparks flew in every direction, as a pretty high wind was raging, and the firemen experienced great difficulty in preventing it from spreading further.

A large crowd of people quickly gathered, as the fire seemed at first to be threatening the whole block, and many were anxious for their homes.

Policeman Atkinson was among the first to notice the blaze. He was standing at the corner of Seventeenth and Broad Streets. He turned in the alarm about the same time as did Mr. Hartzell.

Damage Is Heavy.

The exact amount of the damage could not be ascertained, as Mr. James McDonough, the owner and proprietor, could not be found. It is known, however, that he carried insurance, and this may cover the loss.

Two alarms were turned in, and engines Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, and trucks Nos. 1 and 2 responded. The fire was got under control after about an hour's work, but the alarm was turned in too late to save anything on the third floor, where the fire originated, and where it was confined by the department.

But For This Lawyers Wreck Would Not Have Happened.

COMMISSION INQUIRES AS TO THE CAUSE

Train Crews and Operators
Testify at Length as to Ter-
rible Accident in Which
President Spencer
Lost His
Life.

After three long sessions, consuming in all over twelve hours, the Corporation Commission yesterday practically completed the inquiry into the cause of the fatal wreck at Lawyers, on the Southern Railway, Thanksgiving Day, but no conclusions were announced.

All the testimony, however, tended to show that the block operator at Rangoon, G. D. Mattox, let No. 37 into the block on No. 23, between Rangoon and Lawyers, before he had secured "O. K." from Lawyers. It came out in evidence that Mattox, under the severe questioning of Hon. Alfred P. Thomas, counsel for the road, admitted that he had violated the rule in this regard, and that but for this violation the accident would not have happened. It came out in evidence that Mattox let 32 in the block, and that this train, which had been crippled by a defective coupling all the way from Lynchburg, broke in two just before reaching Lawyers. Before Mattox could get "O. K." from Lawyers on 22, he let 37 in, though his testimony was that Lawyers had reported 32 as having passed there. He said he could not get the operator there to give him the time, as required by the rules.

Never Passed Lawyers.

The Lawyers operator, admitted that he gave Rangoon a clear block for No. 37, but declared he did not know No. 23 was in the block. He said he could not have reported the latter as having passed Lawyers, as no part of it ever passed there until after the wreck.

Jacobs, the operator at Lawyers, said after the wreck he called up Rangoon and said to Mattox, "You've played 37-1." Mattox admitted that he had received the message, and said he wired back, "It is you and not me."

There were a large number of witnesses on the stand first and last, but the operators were, of course, the leading ones.

Superintendent Caspary, of the northern division, said: "The rules of the company are all right, but they were violated in this case."

The train dispatcher's testimony was strong and clear, and it tended to show that the Rangoon operator made the fatal error.

Commissioner Joseph E. Willard did perhaps more of the questioning than either of his colleagues, and he showed great familiarity with the practical operations of railroads.

While the details of the wreck at Lawyers had been written at length in the press, yet nearly all the testimony adduced yesterday was of interest, and

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

GROWN-UP SCHOOL BOY SHOOT'S FATHER

Resented Being Kept at School
and Whipped for Punish-
ment.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Because his father kept him in the grammar school, while the boy was older and larger than others in that grade and whipped him when he failed in his lessons, William Weedon, aged twenty-six years, to-day shot his father, John Weedon, in the face and neck, at their home in Glendale, L. I.

It is feared that the father's wounds will be fatal. William borrowed a little revolver from a schoolmate, and when his father started to whip him to-day, shot him twice. The father ran out of the house, the boy pursuing and firing at him. Three bullets from the revolver penetrated the clothing of a policeman who interfered and arrested William.

Wreck Near Barbers.

SALISBURY, N. C., December 11.—A wreck occurred on the North Carolina Midland Branch of the Southern Railway near Barbers, this afternoon. Four passenger cars were derailed and piled high in the air. The train crew was badly shaken up, but no one was seriously injured. Passengers are being transferred around the wreck to-night.

MRS. BIRDSONG FOUND GUILTY

Jury Brought in a Verdict of
Manslaughter, But Recom-
mended "Mercy."

A GREAT SURPRISE TO ALL

Spent the Night in a Hotel Under
Surveillance—Will Move for
New Trial.

HAZLEHURST, MISS., December 11.—Mrs. Angie Birdsong was found guilty of manslaughter for killing Dr. Thomas Butler, and was recommended to the mercy of the court.

After the verdict, while the defendant sat crying with a young child in her arms, a deputy approached to take her to jail. When he lifted the child from its mother, the little one sobbed in fear, "Mamma, don't let him have me."

So sure had Mrs. Birdsong's friends been of a favorable verdict that she was nearly alone in the court-room when the jury entered, even her husband being absent.

Mrs. Birdsong was not compelled to remain in jail, but spent the night under surveillance at a hotel. Her uncle, United States Senator McLaurin, who had left Hazlehurst, was telegraphed for to return and make the motion for a new trial, which the defense announced will be done to-morrow.

The court did not pass sentence to-day. The minimum penalty for manslaughter in this State is a fine of \$500.

Mrs. Birdsong, twenty-two years old, and a member of a leading Mississippi family, in November, 1905, shot and killed Dr. Thomas Butler, who had been related. She alleged that she had been of illicit relations with her, and that his boasts were untrue. The tragedy occurred in Monticello, Miss.

PLEAD GUILTY; ARE FINED \$150,000

Rebaters Fare Badly at Hands of
United States Circuit
Court.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Fines aggregating \$150,000, were imposed to-day by Judge Holt in the United States Circuit Court upon the American Sugar Refining Company and upon Brooklyn Cooperative Company, under the defendants, through counsel, but defended by the indictments charging the acceptance of rebates on sugar shipments in violation of the Elkins anti-rebate act. The Sugar Refining Company was fined \$30,000 and the Cooperative Company, \$50,000. After the fines were imposed, United States District Attorney Stinson, who conducted the prosecution, told the court that he thought the amount of the fines assessed was sufficiently large to act as a deterrent to rebaters in the future, and that the government would consent to the remainder of the indictments against the Brooklyn Sugar Refining Company and the Brooklyn Cooperative Company being dismissed. Judge Holt granted a motion dismissing the other indictments.

LEVI BOSTER, AGED 116, A VIRGINIAN, IS DEAD

Voted for Andrew Jackson and
Every Democratic Can-
didate Since.

ST. LOUIS, MO., December 11.—Dis-
patches to-day from Springfield, Mo., an-
nounce the death there of the oldest man in the State of Missouri—Levi Boster—aged 116, a native Virginian. Boster was born at Christiansburg, Va., June 5, 1790, and had lived in Missouri since 1848. He always wore the homespun clothing, cowhide boots and a hickory shirt. His white hair fell over his shoulders, and he had worn a long gray beard for over half a century.

Boster voted for Andrew Jackson for President, and had voted for every other Democratic candidate for President since. He never used a cook stove during his lifetime. He is survived by two sons—William B. Boster, seventy-six, and Doc. Boster, aged sixty-seven.

EARLY CLOSING LAW IS PASSED BY ALDERMEN

Appropriation For Enter-
tainment of Veterans
Reduced to \$15,000.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND FOR AUDITORIUM

Poe Monument Matter Went to
Table for Time Being and
Will Be Taken Up Later.
Ordinance to Increase
Tax Rate in City
Introduced.

What Aldermen Did At Session Last Night

Passed Umlauf early closing ordinance, after defeating by vote of ten to nine movement to amend. Ordinance now goes to Mayor, who will approve it.

Laid on table temporarily resolution appropriating \$5,000 for erection of monument to Edgar Allan Poe. Reduced to \$15,000 amount appropriated for entertainment of Confederate veterans in 1907. Vote ten to nine.

Adopted resolution appropriating \$15,000 for conversion of Third Market into auditorium. Vote seventeen to two.

Refused to concur in ordinance providing for additional clerk in Treasurer's office. Vote ten to nine.

Concurred in resolution looking to widening of Monument Avenue. Vote unanimous.

ORDINANCES INTRODUCED.

To increase local tax rate from \$1.40 to \$1.50.

To increase wages of all city employees who receive less than \$1,000 per year.

The Board of Aldermen, in a busy session continuing until well after midnight last night, completed the month's business, disposing of some very important propositions.

A final effort was made to amend the Umlauf ordinance requiring the closing at midnight of all places where liquor is dispensed, to be drunk where sold, and forbidding them to open before 6 A. M. The attempted amendment consisted of the change of the opening hour from 6 to 5 A. M., and was offered by Mr. Satterfield, who stated that it was not at the suggestion of any one, but purely on his own initiative and his idea of what was reasonable. A vigorous fight was made for the earlier opening phase of the ordinance, but it was as vigorously opposed. When the amendment came to a vote, it was lost by a vote of 9 to 10. The Board then concurred in the ordinance precisely as it passed the Common Council, so that there was no amendment for his approval. That is assured in advance, and it is now certain that the ordinance will become effective February 1, 1907.

Reduced Again.

The Board amended the appropriation by the Common Council of \$20,000 for the entertainment of Confederate veterans attending the reunion in this city next year, so as to make the sum appropriated \$15,000, and added of \$3,000. This is the sum originally recommended by the Finance Committee. The matter now goes back to the Common Council for concurrence in the amendment.

One of the most important actions of the Board was the adoption of a resolution appropriating \$15,000 for the conversion of the Third Market building at Pine and Cary Streets into an auditorium. The Joint Committee on Grounds and Buildings had reported plans and recommendations, but the Finance Committee, for this purpose, had the Finance Committee reported it to the Common Council recently, with an amendment making the appropriation \$15,000. After some discussion that body referred the entire subject entirely to the Finance Committee. These after a lengthy consideration reported favorably on the proposition to convert the building for the purpose named, but could not agree on the sum necessary, and so reported. It was on the motion of Chairman Wood, of the Finance Committee, that the sum was fixed last night by the Board at \$15,000. The appropriation will go to the Common Council for concurrence, and its passage by that body is regarded as practically assured.

The ordinance appropriating \$5,000, under specified conditions, for the erection in this city of a monument to Edgar Allan Poe, came up on concurrence in the Common Council's action thereon, but the Board failed to concur, lacking the required majority therefor. Mr. Turpin, president of the body, changed his vote in order to move a reconsideration, which he advocated in one of the most brilliant addresses delivered before the body in several years. His appeal for reconsideration prevailed, and the proposition was tabled until a later meeting.

Mayor's Message.

Mayor McCarthy sent a message to the two branches of the Council relative to annexation and the consideration of the many problems resultant therefrom, and the necessity of some prompt solution. The message was ordered printed for the information of the Council, and also the provisions of the order of the Council specifying the terms and conditions of the extension of the city limits. The paper, which is presented elsewhere, is a valuable commentary upon the important matters involved.

Among the ordinances introduced and referred to the Finance Committee was one offered by Mr. Reynolds to increase the tax rate from \$1.40 to \$1.50, and another by Alderman Ellett to increase the pay of all city employees now re-